

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

A²

6. (once amended) The method of [any of claims 1 to 5]claim 1 wherein the hyperpolarised ^{129}Xe is enriched at a level of 40% or more.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

A³

7. (once amended) The method of [any of claims 1 to 6]claim 1 wherein the degree of hyperpolarisation is 8% or more.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

A⁴

8. (once amended) The method of [any of claims 1 to 7]claim 1 which is performed in a solution wherein the solvent has a viscosity in the range of 700 to 1500 mPs.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

A⁵

9. (once amended) The method of [any of claims 1 to 8]claim 1 wherein the pressure of the xenon gas is at least 5 bar.